

Overlord 691

Chapter 691: Comprehending the Profundity of Ice and Water

The Nether Soul Domain regaining its ability to sense his surroundings signified that Xiang Shaoyun could start thinking of a way to solve his current predicament. He discovered that a thick layer of ice surrounded his body, and surrounding the ice was water.

He could sense the water flow and the waves of the water. He also discovered a group of ice arrowfish swimming in the water. He was also certain that he was no longer within the lake. Rather, he had drifted somewhere else in the sea.

He wished that the ice arrowfish would actually discover him so he would be able to use their sharp arrow mouths to break the ice around him and free him. Unfortunately, that was merely his wishful thinking. The fish had not discovered him.

Apart from that, he also found that there were some crystals of extreme cold encased within the ice chunk surrounding him, and the discovery filled him with excitement. He was impatient to regain control over his body, grab all these crystals, and meet up with Han Chenfei's group.

He wanted to expand his Nether Soul Domain to envelop the ice around him before using the chains of his Imperial Nether Prison to break him free. Unfortunately, he found himself unable to extend his Nether Soul Domain. The layer of ice around him had completely suppressed the domain's power.

He sank into depression when he found that his idea wouldn't work. Left with no choice, he could only calm his mind and sense his body through meditation. He tried his best to go through the frost and slowly regain the connection with his physical body.

After all, it was his own body. Although it had been frozen, his Nether Soul Domain and soul had recovered. He could use his soul power to charge the frost again and again, awakening the basic instincts of his body. Unfortunately, this plan did not seem to work very well either.

Finally, he thought of a different plan: to comprehend the profundity of ice and water. Only then would he be able to free himself. Slowly, his soul chanted the Desolation mantra.

Borrowing from his previous experiences of using the mantra, he gradually immersed himself in a state of comprehension. Prior to entering the lake, he had already gained a certain level of comprehension on ice and water, especially water.

Although he was encased in a chunk of ice, he could still sense the water around the ice. Again and again, he focused on the flow of the water and the sensation of the ice. Slowly, his comprehension deepened.

He could sense the water brushing past the ice, turning the outer layer into water. At the same time, part of the water was left on the ice and formed another layer of ice. It was like an eternal cycle, ice into water, water into ice.

The cycle of ice and water taught Xiang Shaoyun of the two's shared characteristics and differences. Ultimately, he reached a conclusion that when water encountered cold, it became ice, whereas ice and heat would become water. In essence, both were considered a part of the power of water. They merely shared different forms.

After understanding that, Xiang Shaoyun concluded that he should be able to seek a method to change the forms of water and ice at any time. The moment he found that method, he would be able to make use of both water and ice, and it might let him comprehend the profundity of ice and water.

Day after day, Xiang Shaoyun meditated untiringly using the Desolation mantra. He was no longer aware of the passage of time.

This day, he had a sudden source of inspiration when he observed a passing berserk tide. Water would be still when calm, and water would be ferocious when stirred. Water would become ice when cold, and ice would melt when heated. His filthless soul locked on to the two concepts. Using his soul power like water, he formed wave after wave that crashed into the frost within his body.

Using his soul power as water, he stirred the water, granting it ferocity, causing it to warm. And with heat, the ice would melt. He operated his soul power according to the profundity of water. Finally, he slowly loosened the frost within him, causing the ice to melt.

As he controlled his soul power in such a manner, his blood seemed to be affected as it started slowly flowing in accordance to the profundity of water. Initially, the blood moved slowly, and then it eventually increased in speed. As his blood circulation recovered, his heart started throbbing, and finally, he restored the connection between his body and soul.

When he sensed that happening, he urged his soul power to move faster, trying to completely break the ice encasing his body. His blood started circulating healthily while energy coursed through his

meridians. His acupoints shone brightly, and along with the circulation of astral energy, his stars awakened.

Taking this opportunity, Xiang Shaoyun activated his flame star, awakening Yun Flame and using it to release a massive amount of flame power to defrost his body. During the melting process, he could sense how cold his body was.

Water was at its lowest temperature when it turned to ice, and this was a place containing the energy of extreme cold. If he couldn't completely recover from the cold, it would transform into a hidden injury that would plague him. His meridians and vitality would suffer, and his body would not stop losing vitality until he died.

As his body was recovering, he hurriedly circulated his cultivation method and moved all the frost energy within his body into his water star. Water and ice shared the same origin, and Xiang Shaoyun was confident he could master both. Thus, the water star would be a perfect container for the energy of extreme cold.

Sure enough, upon entering the water star, the energy of extreme cold did not conflict with the existing water energy within. Rather, the water energy was strengthened, gaining a trace of frost power.

Xiang Shaoyun did not have the time to observe these changes. He was trying his best to recover and regain control over his body. He still needed to break the layer of ice around him and seize the crystals of extreme cold.

After some hard work, he finally regained full control over his body. He quickly refined several drops of lightning liquid to heal his injuries. The breath of the black tortoise earlier had injured him badly.

If it wasn't for the broken armor taking the brunt of the impact for him, his entire body would have been crushed. With the lightning liquid, he nourished his injuries and slowly recovered.

At the same time, he also refined some soul spring to replenish his soul power. He even fed the surviving ghostrunes some soul spring, allowing them to recover fully. Once again, Xiang Shaoyun was able to move his body.

He no longer needed Yun Flame's protection. He could even directly absorb the frost energy around him to enhance his water star. Once again, he used his Nether Soul Domain to sense the location of

the crystals of extreme cold. The moment he was certain of their location, he no longer held back and started digging into the ice around him.

Chapter 692: Meeting Huo Xudong Again

Xiang Shaoyun tried his best to break the ice around him, only to find the ice incredibly firm. In fact, it was much tougher than ordinary king weapons and was almost comparable to an emperor weapon.

If it wasn't for the fact that Xiang Shaoyun had comprehended the power of frost and could transform part of the ice into water, he would have probably spent a very long time just shattering the ice around him.

As he melted the ice into water, he also absorbed the energy into his water star, quickly filling up the star. He was confident it wouldn't be long before his water star would reach its current limit.

After some hard work, Xiang Shaoyun finally reached a crystal of extreme cold. The energy of extreme cold it emanated was one that regular people couldn't endure.

Xiang Shaoyun hurriedly dug it out before storing it in a jade case to prevent its energy from dispersing. He then continued searching for more crystals. He believed that these crystals of extreme cold shared his fate, having been blown this way by the black tortoise instead of naturally forming here.

After a while, Xiang Shaoyun gathered eight crystals of extreme cold. One could say that this was quite a bountiful harvest.

Done with that, he muttered in satisfaction, "I believe with these crystals, I'll be able to save Han Qianwei and Han Xuewei."

He then started digging his way out of the chunk of ice, aiming to leave as soon as possible. It did not take him long to break free. Outside, he had no idea where to go, so he decided to go with the flow of water as he ascended. He believed that after reaching the water's surface, he would be able to determine which direction to go and look for Han Chenfei's group.

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Above the iceberg, Han Chenfei and the sisters had long left the lake. They had been waiting for Xiang Shaoyun, but he was nowhere to be seen. As they waited, they grew anxious.

They even wanted to enter the lake again, but they found that the lake had suddenly gone berserk with violent waves, throwing them everywhere the moment they entered the water.

They were now sure that something must have changed within the lake. The sisters dove deep down without hesitation, but Han Chenfei, a rational person, promptly stopped them.

She would not let them rush to their deaths. Even if they were to dive into the lake now, it would be to no avail, and they might even get themselves killed. Xiang Shaoyun would have to rely on himself to stay alive.

Hence, they continued waiting above the iceberg while cultivating. However, a month had passed, yet Xiang Shaoyun was still nowhere to be seen. They had lost all hope. At that moment, Han Lingshuang arrived to report that the Glacier Palace members were under attack. Their help was required.

Han Chenfei dragged the sisters away and left without saying anything else. The sisters wanted to continue waiting for Xiang Shaoyun, but they couldn't ignore the plight of the Glacier Palace members.

Thus, they decided to first help the Glacier Palace members before returning to wait, or even to die with Xiang Shaoyun. They were completely unaware that this whole incident was merely a trap set by Han Lingshuang.

She had actually colluded with outsiders to harm Han Chenfei. While Han Chenfei was busy helping her own people, Han Lingshuang suddenly turned on her and dealt her a grave injury. The betrayal caught Han Chenfei by complete surprise.

"Lingshuang, why?" Han Chenfei asked, an unresigned look on her face.

Not only had she suffered Han Lingshuang's ambush, she had also been struck by another expert's sneak attack. The numerous attacks dealt her grievous injuries. Leng Feng tried his best to protect her, but he was not a match for the newcomer and was also heavily injured.

The newcomer was none other than Huo Xudong. Since joining the Dragon Phoenix Academy, Huo Xudong had maintained a low profile. It was almost as if he did not exist. He was a seed the Rat Assassins had planted in the academy, and with his talent, he was also one of the academy's more important disciples.

However, he had never involved himself in the competition for the academy rankings. His whereabouts were always indefinite, and because of that, others slowly forgot about him.

In truth, the moment he joined the academy, a previous generation elder had accepted him as a personal disciple. The previous generation elder was an expert assassin, and his methods were compatible with the likes of the Rat Assassins.

Studying under him, Huo Xudong had grown by leaps and bounds within two years. He was now a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, which was a shocking speed of growth.

With his strength, he could easily enter the top 20 of the Dragon Phoenix List. Even top 10 was possible. After all, even Xiao Xie was only a fifth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. That was why Huo Xudong had been able to harm Han Chenfei. With Han Lingshuang working alongside him, they had successfully harmed Han Chenfei.

As for the Han Clan sisters, they were completely disregarded. Their current strength was insignificant in this situation, and Han Lingshuang subdued them without exerting much effort.

"Young palace master, I never planned to betray you. But ever since you got these two bitches by your side, you and I have drifted apart. Furthermore, you are so impartial that you even taught them the Glacier Sutra and the numerous secret techniques of the Glacier Palace. Don't you think you were very unfair?" said Han Lingshuang with a face of envy.

Han Chenfei explained, "Did I not explain my reasons? I did not want to disrupt your cultivation, while their physiques are different from yours—"

But before she could finish, Han Lingshuang roared with laughter, "Haha, good excuse. But in the end, isn't it because they share your surname?"

"Enough, no point talking about all that. Han Chenfei, if you submit to me, I will give you a chance to live. Otherwise...hehe...you know the consequences," said Huo Xudong with a sinister smile.

"You, scoundrel, and Han Lingshuang, you bastard, if you dare harm the young palace master, I won't spare you even in my death!" Leng Feng painstakingly stood before Han Chenfei and roared.

However, Huo Xudong only needed to lightly wave his hand to send Leng Feng flying. Not satisfied with that, Huo Xudong even drew his dagger and aimed it at Leng Feng's throat.

"Noo!" Han Chenfei roared and tried to help Leng Feng.

Unfortunately, Han Lingshuang blocked her path.

Sphhlt!

And just like that, Leng Feng was murdered mercilessly.

"Leng Feng!" Han Chenfei howled sorrowfully.

At this moment, she decided to disregard everything and use a forbidden technique to avenge Leng Feng by killing Huo Xudong and Han Lingshuang. Alas, Han Lingshuang knew her too well. Before she could activate her technique, Han Lingshuang attacked again, bringing her to the brink of death.

"Since you are unwilling to submit, I will just make you my woman. When the deed is done, you will be able to devote yourself to me," said Huo Xudong with a perverted look on his face.

Despair covered the faces of Han Chenfei and the Han Clan sisters. Right that moment, a cold voice rang out from far away, "Huo Xudong, you scoundrel, you're finally willing to show yourself? Time to die!"

Chapter 693: Prompt Rescue

Huo Xudong was planning to violate Han Chenfei before forcing her to submit. He had never expected that someone would appear to stop him. When he heard that familiar voice, he was greatly startled. He quickly withdrew his hands and retreated in haste. Huo Xudong's strength had grown by leaps and bounds, and he was fearless even when facing a genius on the Dragon Phoenix List's top 10. Who could cause so much fear in him?

Not far away, a figure was rushing over like a storm, numerous ice chunks and chill wind blasting away his surroundings. The newcomer was none other than Xiang Shaoyun, who had recently escaped a calamity underneath the sea.

After leaving the chunk of ice encasing him, he had rushed out of the water and found that he had arrived at the edge of the iceberg. He immediately understood that the black tortoise had blown him to a corner of the iceberg, and the ice lake was indeed connected to the sea. That was why he had been able to return so quickly.

But before he could return to the lake, he sensed something happening and rushed over instead. Fortunately, he arrived in time, or things might have turned out very badly for Han Chenfei and the Han sisters.

"It's Xiang Shaoyun! Xudong, I thought you wanted to kill him? With your current strength, you do not need to fear him!" said Han Lingshuang when she identified the newcomer.

Huo Xudong's expression changed, and he snapped, "What do you know? Kill the three of them. I'll deal with him."

"Ok," Han Lingshuang agreed with a ruthless glint in her eyes.

She drew her sword, prepared to kill Han Chenfei and the sisters. As for Huo Xudong, he summoned a combat puppet instead of personally fighting Xiang Shaoyun. The puppet he summoned was actually made from a goldman.

The goldman was no longer alive, and the gold on its body was without a glimmer. But from its sturdy body, it was obvious it was a sovereign-grade combat puppet. With the physique of a goldman, this puppet was probably durable enough to withstand attacks from sovereign weapons.

"To deal with your nether prison devil puppet, I have personally begged my master for this goldman puppet. Xiang Shaoyun, today is the day you die!" Huo Xudong shouted, a ferocious look on his face.

The goldman puppet took wide steps as it strode toward Xiang Shaoyun, and it flung a shining gold fist at Xiang Shaoyun. With its cumbersome body, the puppet was naturally much slower. Furthermore, this puppet was only an early-stage sovereign-grade puppet.

Xiang Shaoyun used the power of wind and footwork intent to move at a rapid speed, brushing past the puppet instead of wasting time dealing with it. Now that the heavy broken armor no longer hindered him, he had a sensation when he started running that he was beginning to comprehend the shrinking space stage of footwork intent.

One could say that he currently had a speed comparable to a peak Emperor. Unfortunately, he could not stop Han Lingshuang in time when she attacked Han Chenfei and the sisters.

"If they die, none of you will live!" Xiang Shaoyun roared furiously.

"Die!" Han Lingshuang roared with a twisted look on her face.

Just as her sword was about to reap the lives of Han Chenfei and the sisters, Han Chenfei erupted with a burst of dreadful frost energy that surrounded the three of them.

Absolute Freeze!

Han Chenfei had released the technique with her final remaining strength. The sisters also worked with her to further strengthen the ice defense, as it was their only hope of survival.

Clank!

Han Lingshuang's sword struck the ice with a clink. The chunk of ice formed by Absolute Freeze was extremely tough, possessing a defense comparable to an emperor armor. Thus, Han Lingshuang's first strike failed to kill.

"Damn it! I will definitely kill all of you today!" Han Lingshuang howled in indignation.

If Han Chenfei and the sisters were left alive, she would no longer be able to stay in the academy. Otherwise, it would only be a matter of time before they killed her.

Unfortunately for her, before she could launch more attacks, Xiang Shaoyun arrived, his Overlord Skyslaying Saber swinging toward her.

Bang!

Han Lingshuang had not expected Xiang Shaoyun to arrive so quickly. By the time she noticed his approach, his blade had already reached her head, splitting it into two. Her crimson blood splattered on the ice around them, dying the ice with a gorgeous scarlet tint.

Han Lingshuang wanted to harm others, but she herself was harmed instead. She had ended tragically. Huo Xudong wanted to help her, but he couldn't arrive in time. In any case, he never planned to help in the first place. He only wanted to use Han Lingshuang as bait to create an opening for him to sneak an attack against Xiang Shaoyun.

A green dagger appeared in Huo Xudong's hand as he charged Xiang Shaoyun with the fastest speed he could muster. He had learned from his past mistake. With how skillful Huo Xudong was with his dagger, it was obvious he was already a cold-blooded assassin.

He had caught onto Xiang Shaoyun's opening and was aiming to kill with a single strike. However, Money suddenly appeared and shot toward Huo Xudong like a bolt of lightning. Money's body was the size of an arm, and he was able to move undetected.

Because Huo Xudong had rushed the attack and Money had appeared abruptly, Huo Xudong was caught completely by surprise. Startled, he hastily dodged to the side. He managed to avoid the fatal attack, but Money managed to deeply bite his shoulder, causing him to clench his teeth in pain.

Huo Xudong braced the pain and swept with his dagger, but Money immediately retreated after striking. At this time, the goldman puppet reached Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun lifted Han Chenfei and the sisters before quickly dashing away, the goldman puppet stubbornly chasing after them.

"Money, take them away," Xiang Shaoyun said.

Money transformed into his original form, rushed over, and grabbed the ladies before fleeing. As for Xiang Shaoyun, he turned around and charged Huo Xudong. The goldman puppet was unable to do anything to Xiang Shaoyun, depressing Huo Xudong. He had not imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would possess such speed.

"Huo Xudong, time for you to die," said Xiang Shaoyun as he swung his saber. His aura surged and electrical currents roared like dragons as a saber energy formed and flew toward Huo Xudong.

When Huo Xudong sensed Xiang Shaoyun's oppressive aura and recalled the odd techniques Xiang Shaoyun had once used at the Devil Domain, he grew timid. Without any hesitation, he ran toward his goldman puppet. The puppet stepped forth and blocked the incoming attack.

"Go!" Huo Xudong decisively commanded the goldman puppet to leave with him.

Chapter 694: Let Go

Huo Xudong was greatly frightened. During his time at the Devil Domain, he had personally witnessed Xiang Shaoyun's extraordinariness. And now, even with a goldman puppet, he no longer had the courage to face Xiang Shaoyun.

He feared that if he was even a tad bit slower in his escape, Xiang Shaoyun would summon out the nether prison devil puppet. At that time, he wouldn't be able to flee anymore. He was unaware that the nether prison devil puppet had been destroyed. Xiang Shaoyun would have long taken it out otherwise.

Xiang Shaoyun could match the goldman puppet's speed, but he still decided to stop pursuing. Even without the nether prison devil puppet, he still had the Nether Soul Domain he could use to stop their escape. However, he did not have full confidence he could subdue the goldman puppet with his Nether Soul Domain. Furthermore, Han Chenfei and the Han sisters still needed his assistance.

Hence, he gazed at the fleeing Huo Xudong and roared, "The next time I see you, I'll take your life."

The next time we meet, I will ensure you have no chance of making a comeback! Huo Xudong vowed inwardly.

He had thought that he would be able to eliminate Xiang Shaoyun this time, but he found that he still wasn't confident enough. Moreover, his preparations still seemed insufficient. The next time he acted, he would ensure he set up a trap Xiang Shaoyun wouldn't be able to escape.

With Huo Xudong fleeing, Xiang Shaoyun called back Money. As Money hadn't gone far, it did not take him long to return with the ladies. When Money placed them on the ground, Xiang Shaoyun found that all three had fainted within the ice block they had encased themselves in. As for whether they were still alive, he would only know after removing the ice.

"Money, keep watch. I'll help them," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Yes, boss," Money answered and soared into the sky to keep watch of their surroundings.

Xiang Shaoyun first observed the ice block encasing them. From the ice, he could sense an extreme chillness. Of course, it was still not as powerful as the crystal of extreme cold.

"I can't break the ice directly, and I can't melt it with flame, or I will harm them. I need to slowly thaw the ice by using the profundity of ice and water," Xiang Shaoyun muttered to himself.

He then made use of the profundity of ice and water, which he had grasped and newly comprehended while he was trapped underwater. Water and cold would result in frost, while ice and heat would result in water.

Placing both his hands on the ice, he shut his eyes and immersed his senses in the power of ice. He willed for the ice to warm, to melt the ice into water. Using his comprehension of the profundity of ice and water, it did not take him long before the ice block started melting slowly.

Their bodies were soon freed of the ice block, and Xiang Shaoyun's palms were now resting on something tender instead of the ice block. It gave him an odd sensation, causing him to open his eyes. Welcoming him was a pair of eyes that were staring straight into his eyes.

"Han Chenfei, you're awake?" Xiang Shaoyun asked with concern.

"Um. Y-you...let go!" Han Chenfei suddenly shouted weakly.

It was then that Xiang Shaoyun noticed that his palms were actually resting on her chest.

"S-sorry," he said awkwardly as he quickly withdrew his hands.

That tender and supple sensation felt rather good! he mused. It was unknown whether Han Chenfei had been greatly weakened or if she was merely feeling bashful, but she shut her eyes once again and swayed to the side.

Xiang Shaoyun quickly held on to her. "Han Chenfei, hang on!"

He then fed her some emperor-grade healing liquid. Yet by doing so, their bodies were touching again, but in his rush to help, he couldn't be bothered about it. With the nourishment of the emperor liquid, Han Chenfei recovered slightly. She took the chance to start meditating and recuperating.

Xiang Shaoyun then fed the Han Clan sisters some emperor liquid as well. His current priority was to help them recover. Looking at the sisters, he sighed inwardly, Did I owe them a debt in my past life or something?

In truth, he only viewed the sisters as friends and nothing more, but he had also been the one to save them countless times. He did not even wish for any repayment. He only wished they would stay safe from then on so all his previous efforts of saving them wouldn't go to waste.

Done with all that, he waited by the side and stood guard for them as they healed. He took the chance to absorb more frost and water energies, trying his best to fill up his water star.

Back then, Huo Xudong's cultivation level had been higher than his. Xiang Shaoyun felt like he had improved considerably the past two years, but upon seeing Huo Xudong again, he found that the gap between their cultivation levels had instead widened, making the disadvantage of cultivating nine powers increasingly clear. A person cultivating one power could fully make use of that single power and advance rapidly.

"I need to comprehend the profundity of all nine powers as soon as possible," Xiang Shaoyun decided.

He had already gotten a clear taste of how much his strength would increase by comprehending the profundities. His water star was filling with frost and water energies. Before long, the water star would reach a level comparable to the dark star, reaching the limit of his current cultivation level.

Three days passed in a flash. Han Chenfei finally woke up. Her beautiful face was pale, making anyone looking at her feel a sense of sympathy.

"Thank you, Young Master Xiang. If you hadn't arrived in time, I can't even imagine what would have happened to us," said Han Chenfei gratefully.

Xiang Shaoyun waved his hand. "Don't worry about that. Focus on recovery. I have something good for you ladies."

A look of joy flashed past Han Chenfei's eyes. "Did you succeed?"

"Hehe, you will know after you're well," said Xiang Shaoyun, keeping her curious.

Han Chenfei nodded and once again sank into a process of recovery. She had an innate physique of frost. With the dense frost energy here, she would be able to recover quickly. As for the sisters, their injuries were lighter than hers, yet they were much slower to recover. Finally, seven days later, they had recovered greatly.

The sisters were once again deeply grateful toward Xiang Shaoyun. Previously, they had thought that something bad had happened to him. But yet again, he had appeared to save them. They even suspected he was their destined lucky star.

"Looks like you're mostly healed. Look what I have for you," said Xiang Shaoyun as he took out three jade cases.

Han Chenfei accepted a case without hesitation and opened it immediately.

"T-this is a crystal of extreme cold!" Han Chenfei cried out in alarm. She couldn't hide the intense excitement on her face.

"Yes. Will this be useful to you ladies?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Chapter 695: Don't Blame Me, You Need to Take Responsibility

"Useful! Of course it's useful!" Han Chenfei was exceedingly excited. "The crystal of extreme cold is formed across a long period when the energy of extreme cold condenses. Moreover, with its crystal form, our absorption will be even easier as we don't have to absorb the energy of extreme cold under the lake. Young Master Xiang, you're amazing!"

Han Chenfei was wild with joy. These crystals were not only useful for the sisters, but they could also help increase her strength.

"It's good that these crystals are useful. One for each of you. Will that be enough?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

"Of course! Don't look down on each crystal just because of its small size. Each crystal contains a bountiful amount of energy. It is more than enough for us," Han Chenfei answered without a thought. But she soon recalled something as she approached Xiang Shaoyun and asked curiously, "Don't tell me you have more?"

"Cough, cough. Yes, I still have a couple more," said Xiang Shaoyun.

"Wow! Good! Good! Please, trade them all to me! I want them all!" Han Chenfei exclaimed like an excited child.

In her excitement, she pressed toward Xiang Shaoyun, to the point he was almost touching her towering bosom. It reminded him of the tender sensation his hands had felt earlier, and inwardly, he muttered, What an alluring vixen.

"I plan to leave the crystals for myself," he replied.

Although he did not focus on ice cultivation, he could still absorb the energy within the crystal of extreme cold. After all, he had comprehended the profundity of ice and water. He could similarly make use of the power of ice during battle.

Additionally, he also planned to sell some to the ice cultivators under the Overlord Legion so they could increase their strength. In short, he had many uses for the remaining crystals.

"I don't care. You need to sell them to me. Or else, don't blame me. You will need to take responsibility!" Han Chenfei started acting like a spoiled child to get her way.

In truth, her current look was rather adorable, completely unlike an expert ranked top 10 on the Dragon Phoenix List. Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that Han Chenfei would have this side to her. For a moment, he was at a loss as to what to do.

"What do I need to be responsible for?" Xiang Shaoyun asked blankly.

"Hmph! You know what you did!" Han Chenfei snorted coldly, a somewhat bashful look on her face.

Inwardly, she thought, Thinking of leaving after taking advantage of me? Dream on!

Xiang Shaoyun would probably cry out in grief if he heard her inner thoughts. He had merely accidentally touched her while trying to save her. Was there a need to make a fuss out of it? By the side, the Han Clan sisters grew imaginative when they heard Han Chenfei's words, forming stories in their heads about the secret between Han Chenfei and Xiang Shaoyun. At the same time, a hint of jealousy filled their hearts.

But when they thought of how Xiang Shaoyun and Han Chenfei were basically a pair of similarly talented individuals, they felt that the two were indeed worthy of each other. They couldn't even bring themselves to feel envy.

"Fine, fine, I'll sell you one," Xiang Shaoyun submitted.

"One? No, no, no. At least three!" Han Chenfei objected.

"Why don't you go rob someone? One. Take it, or leave it."

"Are you even a man? Why are you so stingy? What can the crystal of extreme cold do for you? Since you're selling them away anyway, you might as well sell them to me. I want three. Of course, if you have more, I'll take all of them. This young lady won't mistreat you!"

"You think you're buying some common vegetable or something? Two. That's my limit. Either that or nothing!"

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After intense negotiation, Han Chenfei finally agreed to purchase only two crystals. Xiang Shaoyun felt incredibly wronged. The crystals were his, yet after he agreed to sell them, she still acted like she was the one who had suffered losses.

He helplessly took out two crystals of extreme cold and said, "Consider the first three crystals my gift. What are you going to use to trade for these crystals? If you're going to just offer some trash, don't bother."

"I know you cultivate nine different powers and require numerous treasures of different elements. I have a top-quality emperor medicine of the water element here. I also have some flame emperor-

grade items that I had accidentally obtained. I also have more items of other elements. You can have your pick," Han Chenfei said before piling up a bunch of items on the ground.

Each was worthy of an Emperor and was a valuable treasure. None was substandard, but in Xiang Shaoyun's eyes, these items were nothing and couldn't compare to the worth of a crystal of extreme cold. Or, to be precise, they weren't too useful for him.

"I don't believe the great Glacier Palace young palace master will only have these things. Stop hiding and take out some really good stuff, or I'll just cancel the trade," said Xiang Shaoyun.

Han Chenfei raised her brow and said, "Oh? Overlord, you have quite an appetite, huh?"

She then took out another pile of items. When Xiang Shaoyun saw the second pile, a satisfied smile finally formed on his face. His gaze landed on a certain stalk of herb with triangular leaves.

The stem of the herb was slim, yet its leaves were wide and triangular. It was greenish-yellow and odd, but it emanated an alluring medicinal fragrance.

That herb was known as the wild triangle straw. Each leaf had a different medicinal effect. One could say that each stalk had the same price as several peak emperor-grade herbs.

Next, his gaze landed on a battle technique manual.

Dark Sky Engulfing Imprint!

It was an early sovereign-grade technique, capable of unleashing considerable combat prowess. For a dark cultivator, getting this battle technique was akin to a tiger growing a pair of wings.

Xiang Shaoyun did not have many battle techniques of the sovereign-grade, and he did not have any battle technique of the dark element. Thus, he had been longing to have one.

"How about this, this battle technique and the wild triangle straw, and a few other emperor medicines," said Xiang Shaoyun as he pointed at the items he wanted.

He was not planning to use the wild triangle straw for himself. Instead, he was preparing it for Vicious One, Vicious Two, and Vicious Three. Under the nourishment of the nine-colored fog, their bloodline power had grown considerably. In the future, they would be his capable helpers. Thus, he needed to first prepare some things for them.

"Your greed is insatiable!" Han Chenfei glared at Xiang Shaoyun. "Fine, take them. I can't be bothered to bicker with a stingy man like you."

Xiang Shaoyun's face turned ghastly. He really wanted to argue and ask how he was stingy when he had given them three crystals for free. After he took what he wanted, he handed two crystals to Han Chenfei.

"What do you plan to do next?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

Just as Han Chenfei was about to reply, she pointed behind Xiang Shaoyun and cried out with a nervous expression, "Young Master Xiang, what's that behind you? We need to leave!"

Chapter 696: Tricking the Old Frost Wolf

Upon hearing Han Chenfei's words, Xiang Shaoyun did not even bother to turn his head. Instead, he sent his senses out and immediately saw what was going on. Behind him, a large number of frost wolves had appeared, with an elderly frost wolf in the lead. The elderly wolf was most likely the leader of the group.

Its body was enormous and sturdy, and it had not grown weak due to its old age. Its white and shiny coat of fur was incredibly sleek, and its eyes, radiating viciousness, seemed to gleam with wisdom.

The old frost wolf was most likely a Demon Sovereign. With its strength, it was capable of frightening Han Chenfei and the sisters. Furthermore, it had a large number of Demon Emperors behind it.

Han Chenfei immediately dragged the sisters and fled. Even Xiang Shaoyun did not plan to stay.

"Youngsters, do not be afraid. This old wolf is not here to create trouble for you," said the old frost wolf.

Xiang Shaoyun and Han Chenfei stopped when they heard those words.

Han Chenfei took the initiative to ask, "Lord frost wolf, how may we help you?"

The demons placed great emphasis on vows, and since the old wolf had promised not to create trouble for them, he wouldn't attack.

"I am not looking for you. This young man is the one I'm looking for," said the old frost wolf as he looked at Xiang Shaoyun.

Xiang Shaoyun pointed at himself in astonishment. "Lord frost wolf, you're looking for me?"

"Yes, I need to discuss something with you. Can we have a talk?" the old frost wolf asked.

Inwardly, Xiang Shaoyun rolled his eyes, Look at the fuss you have created. Would I dare to say no?

"Well, since you're looking for him, we'll take our leave," said Han Qianwei as she hurriedly dragged the sisters away.

Han Qianwei and Han Xuewei were unwilling to leave, but they knew they couldn't do anything. Thus, they left with Han Chenfei.

That disloyal woman! Xiang Shaoyun grumbled inwardly. He then looked at the old frost wolf and said, "Lord frost wolf, how may I help you? Tell me, and I won't hesitate if it is in my ability to help."

As he spoke, he patted his chest, showing an expression that he would definitely fulfill his promise.

The old frost wolf asked, "You've met Lord Frost God, right?"

"Lord Frost God? You talking about the black tortoise?" Xiang Shaoyun asked in astonishment.

"Looks like you've really met him. I knew he's here guarding his people," said the old frost wolf with a look of veneration.

"Howl!"

The old frost wolf raised his head and howled.

The other frost wolves did the same, filling the entire iceberg with their howls. The disciples cultivating in the area were greatly frightened, as they thought the wolves were going to attack.

When the wolves finally stopped howling, the old frost wolf pleaded, "Since you can survive an encounter with Lord Frost God, it can only mean that the lord looks highly upon you. Can you please bring me to see the lord? I have something to say to him!"

Xiang Shaoyun broke out in cold sweat as he thought, Bring you to him? I might as well bring you to see some ghosts. If this young master sees that tortoise again, I'll probably die.

Xiang Shaoyun coughed and started making up a story. "Lord Frost God hates to be disturbed. He has been slumbering in cultivation. Anyone daring to disturb him will be punished with a miserable death."

The old frost wolf believed every word and sighed, "True, Lord Frost God will not easily show himself. If he shows himself, you humans will probably vanish from this place. Since you can have an audience with the lord, it means the lord approves of you. In the future, you are an honored guest of the frost wolves. Consider these the gifts from us for our first meeting."

After saying that, the old frost wolf spat something out. The pile he spat out were all treasures of the frost and water elements, such as the icemist flower, the blue coral, the spiral edge carapace, and so on.

Most of these treasures were at the emperor grade, but a few of them were incredibly rare that any Emperor would covet. Xiang Shaoyun had not imagined that a simple lie would earn him such benefits. For a moment, he even felt somewhat embarrassed to accept the gifts.

"Lord frost wolf, you are too polite. I haven't helped you at all," said Xiang Shaoyun courteously, but his action said otherwise as he stowed all the treasures away, as if he was afraid the old frost wolf would renege on his words.

"No, just by telling me Lord Frost God is still alive is already a great favor," said the old frost wolf. "With Lord Frost God here, we, the frost wolves, will forever be under his shelter. Our clan will pass on forever!"

Only then did Xiang Shaoyun realize how high a status the black tortoise occupied among the frost wolves.

"Don't worry. The lord is growing stronger and stronger, and he will live on and keep watch on this place forever," Xiang Shaoyun could only continue lying, helping them maintain their faith.

Sure enough, the old frost wolf started howling in excitement. Next the old wolf even invited Xiang Shaoyun to cultivate above the iceberg. Currently, the frost energy there was much denser. With the protection of the frost wolves, he did not need to fear the disturbance of other beasts either.

Overjoyed, Xiang Shaoyun quickly expressed his gratitude. After the old frost wolf passed an order among the frost wolves, they dispersed.

As for Xiang Shaoyun, he went and looked for Han Chenfei and the sisters. They were at the iceberg's outer fringe and had gathered with the other Glacier Palace members. They were considering leaving.

"You weren't actually ripped apart by the frost wolves? How lucky!" Han Chenfei smiled and said.

"Woman, you're really vicious!" Xiang Shaoyun said. "But why are you leaving?"

"We have been here for more than a month. Both Qianwei and Xuewei have fully exhausted their contribution points. If we stay, they will be punished," said Han Chenfei.

"But we haven't resolved their problem. How about this. I have quite a lot of contribution points, so I can sponsor them. It's not too late for them to leave after the issue is fully resolved. After all, this place is suited for their cultivation, and the frost wolves have agreed to let us cultivate in their territory. They will be providing us protection. This is a rare chance," said Xiang Shaoyun magnanimously.

The offer greatly touched the sisters. Even Han Chenfei saw Xiang Shaoyun in a new light.

"Ok, I'll stay behind with them. Can you do me a favor and send the others back?" Han Chenfei asked.

"No problem," Xiang Shaoyun agreed.

Chapter 697: Flame Mountains

Xiang Shaoyun arranged for Han Chenfei and the sisters to cultivate at the frost wolf territory. He also gave all his contribution points to the sisters. In the past, he had been accumulating contribution points so he could enter the nine cultivation zones. But now that he could enter for free, he was in no rush to accumulate more.

In any case, he had already helped the sisters a lot, so he might as well finish the job. The sisters were incredibly moved, and they vowed that they would die for him if required. And thus, Han Chenfei and the sisters stayed behind while Xiang Shaoyun brought the Glacier Palace members away.

It was unknown whether the academy had some agreement with the beasts in the sea, but they weren't attacked during their return trip. The group directly returned to the academy. Xiang Shaoyun left with his water star completely full. Next, he returned to his villa to let the Overlord Legion members know that he was safe.

At his villa, he learned that Zhuge Zhantian had entered the Forest of Antiquity while Ma Qihao and the others had gone out on missions for contribution points. Only Lady Shura stayed behind to guard the villa and cultivate.

After receiving the gold elemental treasures from Xiang Shaoyun, Lady Shura had been working hard to enter the third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. She was currently only one step away from succeeding.

Xiang Shaoyun did not want to distract her, so he called over the members that cultivated the power of flame. He was going to enter the Flame Mountains next. His comprehension on the power of flame was rather deep, but he still had yet to comprehend the profundity of flame. He wanted to use this chance to comprehend it and fill up his flame star.

Soon, 12 Overlord Legion members arrived, and they were all flame cultivators that weren't out on a mission and could enter the cultivation zone with Xiang Shaoyun. Instead of resting, Xiang Shaoyun took them straight to the Flame Mountains.

The so-called Flame Mountains zone was actually a zone with a series of continuous volcanoes. Some volcanoes were still active and would occasionally spit lava, while others had been dormant for many years. A unique species resided at the Flame Mountains, and they were known as the flame spirits.

The flame spirits were formed of pure fire, and their intelligence wasn't exactly high, yet they had incredible flame power. Moreover, there were a lot of them, and the moment one intruded upon their territory, they would attack together regardless of who the intruder was.

On the other hand, if one killed a flame spirit, one would be able to absorb a strand of pure flame spirit blaze from the dead spirit and enhance one's flame star. The strand of pure flame spirit blaze contained a trace of flame origin energy, and it was helpful in greatly enhancing a flame cultivator's cultivation.

Because of that, many cultivators would form groups to hunt these flame spirits to increase their cultivation speed. However, among the disciples, the ratio of flame cultivators was rather high. Thus, the competition at the Flame Mountains was intense, and conflicts could arise easily.

The power of flame was at its peak in this environment, so Yu Caidie and Yu Ziyang, the Flaming Sun leader, practically stayed here all year long with their identities as special priority disciples.

It was rumored that Yu Ziyang had reached the seventh-stage Dragon Ascension Realm. That was a shocking cultivation speed. Xiang Shaoyun had learned all that from the Overlord Legion members, allowing him to have a better picture of the general situation in the Flame Mountains.

The moment they arrived, an intense heatwave blasted them. The thick flame energy filled the land, urging all flame cultivators to sit down and start cultivating. Fortunately, these genius disciples had strong willpower and knew that this was not the optimal location for them to cultivate.

"Ling Lin, where should we go?" Xiang Shaoyun asked.

This was the same Ling Lin who had entered the Devil Domain with Xiang Shaoyun in the past. Both he and Jin Shui had joined the academy as Shou Xie's followers. He had recently broken through into the late first-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, but this cultivation level was considered weak compared to the other genius disciples.

He was a flame cultivator and had once cultivated here. Thus, he had a general understanding of the cultivation zone.

He answered, "Those from the Flaming Sun occupy the best cultivation spot. As for the other spots, different factions occupy them. If we are not fighting them, we can only pick some spots that are out of the way. However, those places have comparatively fewer flame spirits, and some won't even have any."

"We should just seize a good spot for ourselves," said a different person.

That person was Deng Lingtian, a peak second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. He was only a step away from the third stage.

The others voiced their agreements to his suggestion. After all, they were all hot-blooded young men and were naturally unwilling to cultivate at some second-rate spot.

Xiang Shaoyun smiled. "Good. Since everyone is thinking the same, let's go to a better spot. I am curious, what does a flame spirit look like?"

Thus, the group headed toward a certain active volcano with thick flame energy and many flame spirits. The Flaming Sun already occupied the tallest volcano, so nobody dared approach it.

Just Yu Ziyang and Yu Caidie were enough to deter many people. Xiang Shaoyun was not so arrogant that he would charge straight to their spot. Although he was confident he could put up some fight against them, he did not want to make things difficult for Yu Caidie.

Hence, he set his eyes on the Di Alliance's spot. Di Lin and Xia Yunxi were both flame cultivators, and they came here frequently. As a result, the Di Alliance occupied an excellent cultivation spot at the Flame Mountains.

After learning that, Xiang Shaoyun charged straight toward the Di Alliance's spot. Previously when he had challenged Di Lin, Di Lin had avoided the duel. Now that he was personally here charging into their territory, would Di Lin still run from the fight?

"I hope you don't disappoint me," Xiang Shaoyun muttered, his eyes filled with thick killing intent.

He had been waiting a very long time for this moment. The blood within him boiled, and he couldn't wait to battle that traitor.

When they arrived at the foot of the volcano occupied by the Di Alliance, someone blocked their path and shouted, "The Di Alliance is stationed here. Any unrelated person needs to leave, or don't blame us for not showing mercy!"

The two on guard duty had both reached late second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm.

Xiang Shaoyun merely waved his hand. "Take them down as quickly as possible."

Xiang Shaoyun couldn't even be bothered to deal with such weak opponents personally. Dealing with them would insult his status as the overlord and honor those lowly opponents.

Chapter 698: I'll Kill You First

After a few exchanges, the two Di Alliance guards were left with wounds all over and could fight no longer. The Dragon Phoenix Academy did not prohibit internal battles, but killing was strictly discouraged. Otherwise, one would be punished severely.

As for Xiang Shaoyun's act of killing Han Lingshuang on the iceberg, that was simply because he was left with no choice. Moreover, he had ample reasons to kill then, and he would not be afraid even if someone reported it.

Of course, he believed that Huo Xudong would not dare to publicize that incident. In the Flame Mountains zone, there were numerous academy disciples. Thus, it was not feasible to kill these two Di Alliance members.

The two were extremely indignant about their defeats. Their opponents had fought all together against the two of them. In that situation, they stood no chance. Xiang Shaoyun then led the Overlord Legion people up the volcano.

Before long, a group of people arrived, having descended the volcano. They had sensed the fight at the foot of the volcano and were there to provide assistance. There were about 15 of them. Evidently, the Di Alliance had recruited quite a lot of members.

As for why they had managed to recruit so many members, it was because a previous generation elder had accepted Di Lin as a personal disciple. These new joiners all wished to obtain the support of the previous generation elder's faction through Di Lin. The group of newcomers was led by Di Tong and Di Shang.

"It's you, Xiang Shaoyun? You dare come to us?" Di Shang roared when he saw Xiang Shaoyun.

Di Shang was now a Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator as well, but he was two stages below Di Tong. Di Tong had reached the third stage. One could say that his progress had been rather rapid.

"That's right. Today, I'm here for the Di Alliance. If you're smart, piss off. Otherwise, I'll cripple all of you," said Xiang Shaoyun with a sinister look on his face.

He held an intense dislike for anyone from the Di Clan, as disloyalty seemed to flow in their veins.

"Trash like you dares to create a fuss? Men, take them all down!" Di Shang commanded.

With Di Shang's strength, he wasn't supposed to be able to command the Di Alliance members. But since he was Di Lin's elder brother, they still showed him sufficient respect.

"Leave Xiang Shaoyun to me. You guys deal with the others," said a sword-wielding young man as he charged forward.

His sword shone with brilliant radiance, exuding incomparable sharpness, radiating formidable might.

"Be careful, Overlord. He is Xia Qiuhua, and his strength is comparable to the deputy commander's," said Deng Lingtian.

"It's him? Yes, I've heard of him from Big Brother Tang. Good, I'll start with him," Xiang Shaoyun sneered, stepped forth, and threw a punch at the incoming sword.

An overbearing flaming fist collided with the boundless sword ray.

Rumble!

A dazzling explosion resulted, and sparks spread everywhere. The collision was like a signal that started the battle between the others as the Di Alliance people charged the Overlord Legion people.

"Kill! Kill these bastards!" Di Shang roared as if he had gone mad.

"I hate noisy people like you the most," said Xiang Shaoyun in a displeased manner as he suddenly erupted in speed and avoided Xia Qiuhua. He rushed for Di Shang.

"Eighth brother, watch out!" Di Tong had been sticking close to Di Shang, and he had a decent reaction time.

Even so, he still wasn't able to stop Xiang Shaoyun's sudden attack, as it was just too fast. One ought to know that Xiang Shaoyun was someone who had started to comprehend the second stage of footwork intent, shrinking space. Coupled with the power of his wind star and the lack of the heavy armor, he was now as fast as a peak Emperor.

Like a specter, he appeared behind Di Shang and clawed his cape, roaring, "You want to kill me? I'll kill you first. Di Batian and your siblings shall mourn for you!"

"Xiang Shaoyun, you dare harm my eighth brother?" To the side, Di Tong roared in alarm as he attacked with full strength.

However, Xiang Shaoyun ignored him, and with his fingers around the neck of Di Shang, who was already wearing a pleading expression, he twisted the neck.

Crack!

A crisp sound rang out. Di Shang's neck was completely snapped, and he breathed his last. Wasn't killing fellow disciples prohibited in the Dragon Phoenix Academy? Was Xiang Shaoyun going to risk punishment just to kill Di Shang?

Of course not. There was no chance he would be punished for killing Di Shang. Di Shang wasn't even an academy disciple. His actual identity in the academy was Di Lin's follower. The restrictions and protection of the academy did not apply to followers.

Because of that, Xiang Shaoyun did not mind killing Di Shang to vent some of his anger. The Di Clan had not only snatched the Ziling Sect from him but had also pursued him endlessly. His patience was wearing thin, and this day, he was finally erupting with scathing murderous intent.

Di Tong's attack struck Xiang Shaoyun, but the six layers of Goldplates had formed around him. Hence, the attack couldn't do much to him, making the power of the Six Goldplate Manual evident.

"Eighth brother!" Di Tong wailed miserably as he looked at Di Shang's corpse, his heart filled with sorrow.

He attacked Xiang Shaoyun wildly as if he had gone mad. With his cultivation level of third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm, he was able to push his combat prowess to the level of late fourth-stage, living up to his status as a genius cultivator.

Unfortunately, that much strength was nothing before Xiang Shaoyun. Turning around, Xiang Shaoyun unleashed his Seven Scorching Sun Claws and ripped Di Tong's attacks apart before clawing at his body.

Di Tong was not his match, and he was sent flying away and coughing up blood, bloody claw marks on his face. Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to press on, Xia Qiuhua's attack arrived at his back.

"Xiang Shaoyun, I am your opponent," said Xia Qiuhua as he swung his blazing sword at Xiang Shaoyun.

The attack was simple yet effective, his technique simple yet profound, his attacking prowess incredible. He was a peak third-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator, only a step away from fourth-stage.

If it wasn't for the fact that his cultivation level was slightly lower than Tang Longfei's, he would have long defeated Tang Longfei. Now, he was ranked third on the Jiao Luan List and was qualified to even challenge some of those on the Dragon Phoenix List.

Xiang Shaoyun could sense the threat of Xia Qiuhua, but he did not shrink. Instead, he sent a series of claw attacks forward.

Seven Scorching Sun Claws, World Tearing Stance.

Xiang Shaoyun was already capable of using the final three stances of the Seven Scorching Sun Claws. Hence, the technique had visibly grown much stronger than when he had used it before.

Chapter 699: Xia Yunxi

Neither the Di Alliance nor the Overlord Legion had expected Xiang Shaoyun to kill the moment he attacked. His act of killing had greatly shocked them all. He was behaving as an overlord should, displaying terrifying overbearingness.

The crisp "crack" the Di Alliance people had heard caused their heartbeat to accelerate and their hairs to stand on end. Because of that, their momentum was suppressed in their battle with the Overlord Legion.

When two armies fought, the brave would be victorious. The people from the Di Alliance were no longer valorous, while those from the Overlord Legion had their courage boosted by Xiang Shaoyun's overbearingness. Hence, the Di Alliance people approached defeat as well.

Meanwhile, Xiang Shaoyun was engaged in fighting Xia Qiuhua. Originally, Xia Qiuhua had wanted to have a fair fight with Xiang Shaoyun to see who was stronger. But Di Tong had insisted on joining the fight, turning it into a two-versus-one.

At that, Xia Qiuhua wanted to pull out, but when he recalled Di Shang's death, he had no excuse to withdraw. If they couldn't take revenge, the reputation of the Di Alliance would plummet. Their members would leave, and it would be hard for them to rebuild themselves.

Xia Qiuhua had thought that by working with Di Tong, they would be able to take down Xiang Shaoyun easily. After all, Xiang Shaoyun was only a second-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Even if he could punch above his class, it wouldn't amount to much.

But the longer he fought Xiang Shaoyun, the higher he evaluated Xiang Shaoyun's strength. Without the heavy armor burdening him, Xiang Shaoyun's speed and offensive had become much scarier.

His claws flew everywhere, leaving claw marks around him, displaying a dreadful destructive might. Yun Flame's power made his claws even scarier, as the moment one was struck, it would be very hard to remove the flame.

Although Xia Qiuhua's simplified attacks were powerful, he was still forced into repeated retreat by Xiang Shaoyun, his attacks ripped apart again and again. As for Di Tong, he was doing even worse. Although he was fighting with all his might, Xiang Shaoyun only needed to make use of his speed as he dodged and left numerous wounds on Di Tong.

If it wasn't for the academy rules, he would have killed Di Tong as well. Of course, even if he couldn't kill, he would still vent some of his anger and beat Di Tong up real nicely. At the very least, he needed to plant a shadow in Di Tong's heart and create a mental block that would make his future advancements difficult.

With one claw, blood sprayed out of Di Tong's arm. With another claw, flesh was ripped off his thigh. With the next claw, cracks appeared on his armor. Each claw was powerful and domineering, and its flame energy invaded and damaged Di Tong's meridians.

"Ahhhh!"

Di Tong wailed like a pig being slaughtered. His entire person was dyed red with blood, looking incredibly miserable. As for Xia Qihua, he was forced to watch as Di Tong was tortured, his attacks failing to even touch the corner of Xiang Shaoyun's clothes. Hatred filled his heart.

"Xiang Shaoyun, take my attack!" Xia Qihua was completely infuriated.

With a roar, he threw his sword out.

Sword steering!

The sword steering stage was the second stage of sword intent. Had Xia Qihua comprehended it? That was not the case. It was merely a special ability unique to the battle technique he cultivated. It only worked within a short range, and it even had a time limit to boot. It was much weaker than the true sword steering stage.

Even so, it was still an astonishing attack. After separating from his hand, the sword increased in might as it trailed through the air like a flaming rainbow, aiming straight for Xiang Shaoyun with an astonishing might.

By the time Xiang Shaoyun sensed the sword, it had already arrived in front of his face at an unbelievable speed. He quickly reacted by leaning backward, barely avoiding the stab. However, the sword actually turned around and stabbed toward his back.

It was an uncanny attack that did indeed resemble the sword steering stage. Xiang Shaoyun was still able to react speedily, but he failed to cleanly avoid the sword as it brushed past his waist and opened a bloody gash.

It was evident Xia Qiuhua's strength was not to be underestimated. The sword turned around yet again, but this time, Xiang Shaoyun did something different and kicked out his leg, leaving an afterimage in the air.

Hurricane Kick!

The afterimage turned into a hurricane that dragged the sword in, causing it to lose control before sending it flying. The sword stabbed into a distant boulder. But by then, Xia Qiuhua had already approached Xiang Shaoyun. Using his fingers as a sword, he sliced at Xiang Shaoyun's throat.

Swordfinger Killing Technique!

He lived up to the name of a sword expert. Even when using his fingers as a sword, he could still release an exceedingly sharp sword energy. Furthermore, he attacked with ingenious timing, attacking while Xiang Shaoyun was dealing with his sword.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to be killed, the six Goldplates appeared, blocking the finger sword.

"Helper of a villain, scram!" Xiang Shaoyun roared and clawed at his opponent with both hands.

A pair of flaming palms clawed Xia Qiuhua, who couldn't retreat in time. Blood sprayed as wounds deep enough to show his bones opened on his arms, the pain so intense he could hardly make another attack.

Just as Xiang Shaoyun was about to press on and cripple Xia Qiuhua, a sword energy shot toward him from not far away. The sword attack was even stronger than Xia Qiuhua's. Taking the form of a flaming cloud, it was extremely destructive.

Xiang Shaoyun immediately sensed the threat behind the attack and was forced to let go of Xia Qiuhua and step away.

When he looked over at the new attacker, his eyes gleamed with even thicker killing intent. "Xia Yunxi!"

The newcomer was none other than Xia Yunxi, the woman Xiang Shaoyun had once loved most. Face delicate and hair drifting about in the air, she floated down as her light muslin veil rippled lightly in the wind. She was akin to a fairy, her person graceful and her temperament elegant, causing the world around her to dim before her beauty.

Over the past two years, her strength had grown rapidly. She was now a fourth-stage Dragon Ascension Realm cultivator. Her temperament had also grown, and her former self was incomparable to the current her.

Of course, it was not surprising for her to reach such heights. She had a mid-grade eight-star physique. Even in the entirety of the academy, her physique was considered excellent. The only reason she wasn't as well known was Di Lin. She had voluntarily sacrificed fame to become a silent woman behind Di Lin.

"Xiang Shaoyun, stop," said Xia Yunxi.

She looked at Xiang Shaoyun with a complicated gaze. Once, she saw this young man as a useless wastrel, which was why she had abandoned him and picked Di Lin. When Xiang Shaoyun's physique was revealed, she was greatly shocked and even felt slight remorse.

But it was too late for her to change her mind. Thus, she had no choice but to hide her remorse. She tried her best to assist Di Lin, hoping to keep Xiang Shaoyun suppressed. But now, it seemed Xiang Shaoyun simply refused to die. Di Lin had plotted repeatedly to have him killed, but all the attempts had failed, and Xiang Shaoyun had grown to the point he could pose as a threat.

Chapter 700: Submit and This Young Master Shall Spare You

Looking at Xia Yunxi, Xiang Shaoyun's eyes gleamed with contempt "Hehe, this is the Dragon Phoenix Academy's turf. What rights do you have to stop us from cultivating here? Want me to stop? Easy. Leave, and I won't make things difficult for you. Of course, you can also choose to defeat me and chase me away."

"Yunxi, k-kill him! He murdered eighth brother!" Di Tong, who was lying on the ground not far away, spoke with great difficulty.

Xia Yunxi blanked out slightly at that, complicated emotions flashing past her eyes. She had never imagined that Xiang Shaoyun would really dare to kill. It would seem like her grudge with him had also reached a level it could no longer be erased.

"Come, kill me. If you can kill me, I promise the academy won't hold you responsible for it," said Xiang Shaoyun as he beckoned Xia Yunxi, a look of madness on his face.

Once, he had true feelings for Xia Yunxi. What he received were the betrayals of her and Di Lin, and his heart was shattered. From then on, his heart blazed with the flame of revenge. Without killing them, he would not be able to extinguish it.

"It has been six years. Let me see how much you have improved," said Xia Yunxi with a sigh.

Prior to this, she was still thinking of a way to reduce the hatred Xiang Shaoyun felt for her, hoping that he would still love her. That way, there might still be hope for her to repair their relationship. Alas, the deeper the love, the deeper the hatred. Because Xiang Shaoyun once loved her dearly, he now hated her even more.

"Come, I won't disappoint you," said Xiang Shaoyun as he formed the claw stance with both hands, looking at Xia Yunxi with a mask of calmness.

He could guess that Di Lin was probably not here today. In that case, he would just defeat Xia Yunxi first. Flame shrouded his entire body. The cheerful emotion Yun Flame was transmitting to him caused his battle intent to rise.

She once thought him a disappointment. Now, he would personally teach her how wrong she had been. A blue flame rose around Xia Yunxi, giving her a demonic look. With a flick of her wrist, she attacked with the sword in her hand.

As the sword stabbed forth, clumps of pulsing blue flames spread all around Xiang Shaoyun. They looked like nothing special, but all of them suddenly exploded one after another like firecrackers, flooding the area around Xiang Shaoyun with a dazzling blue radiance.

The blue flame she used was most definitely not a regular flame. Rather, it was a unique type of flame that was threateningly powerful. At this time, Yun Flame, within Xiang Shaoyun, emitted excitement as if it couldn't wait to devour all the flame around it to enhance itself.

After obtaining the devil flame seed, Yun Flame had evolved to a higher tier. It was definitely no weaker than the flame Xia Yunxi possessed. Although the remarkable attack had given Xiang Shaoyun a shock, everything was still under control.

After taking on the attack, he reached with both hands, and his palms erupted with a powerful suction force, pulling all the blue flame into his body. The sight greatly alarmed Xia Yunxi, who had approached him to follow up on her previous attack.

"You have a high-tier flame!" Xia Yunxi exclaimed in astonishment.

"Now you know. It's my turn to attack," said Xiang Shaoyun with a cold snort as he clawed out with both hands, surrounding Xia Yunxi with sharp claws.

The dark red claw energy was powered by Yun Flame, and it emanated a much stronger oppressive feeling than Xia Yunxi's blue flame. Each attack of Xiang Shaoyun's was incomparably ingenious, aiming only at Xia Yunxi's vital points. He was not holding back just because he was fighting a beauty.

Xia Yunxi could sense Xiang Shaoyun's killing intent. It was so thick a sense of fear rose within her heart. Fortunately, she was no coward and was still able to protect her vitals with her sword technique.

However, Xiang Shaoyun's attacks were too violent and sharp. They were extremely hard to guard against, and finally, a claw attack struck her shoulder. A cloth was ripped off as blood dyed her shoulder red.

How is he so strong? I thought cultivating nine powers will result in a reduced combat prowess? Xia Yunxi wondered inwardly.

She quickly retreated as she thought of a way to seize the initiative. If this continued, her defeat would be certain. Unfortunately, Xiang Shaoyun was too fast. She was not given any respite as his torrential attack pressured her endlessly.

More and more claw attacks struck her, and if it wasn't for the inner armor she wore, she would have been naked by now. She was incredibly ashamed, but she had no way out. During a moment of crisis, Xia Qihua finally dragged his injured body along and rushed into the battlefield, reducing the pressure on Xia Yunxi.

"Leave! We can't stop him!" said Xia Qiuhua.

Xia Yunxi hesitated slightly before rushing toward Di Shang's corpse. She lifted the corpse before grabbing Di Tong. She then fled while shouting, "Everyone, retreat. We will remember this humiliation. When the alliance master leaves his seclusion, he will avenge us."

At her command, the Di Alliance members no longer battled, and they started retreating madly. Only Xia Qiuhua was left in a bitter struggle against Xiang Shaoyun to stop him from giving chase. Of course, if Xiang Shaoyun really wanted to pursue them, Xia Qiuhua would not be able to stop him.

Xiang Shaoyun increased the force behind his attacks and took only a short while to completely suppress Xia Qiuhua. Numerous wounds were left on Xia Qiuhua's body, and even his armor cracked.

It was evident how violent Xiang Shaoyun's flame power was. If he wanted to kill Xia Qiuhua, he could do it easily. But he did not do so.

With his fingers around Xia Qiuhua's neck, he said coldly, "My Big Brother Tang respects that you are a true man. However, you have followed the wrong master. Submit, and this young master shall spare you."

During Xiang Shaoyun's previous return to the academy, Tang Longfei had mentioned Xia Qiuhua's talent in cultivation and combat many times. He lamented deeply that such a person was a member of the Di Alliance.

From how Xia Qiuhua had personally stopped him to let the others flee, it was obvious he was loyal. That was why Xiang Shaoyun wanted to recruit him.

Xia Qiuhua glared at Xiang Shaoyun in response and said, "Kill me if you have the guts. If I so much as frown, I'm a bastard!"

Xiang Shaoyun hesitated slightly before slamming Xia Qiuhua on the ground.

Bang!

The slam filled Xia Qiuhua's mouth with soil. Next, Xiang Shaoyun sent him flying with a kick.

"If it wasn't for Big Brother Tang's excellent impression of you, I would have killed you. Scram!" Xiang Shaoyun shouted, displeased.